

REPORT

OF THE



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
OVERSIGHT VISIT TO //KHARAS, OTJOZONDJUPA, KUNENE AND
KAVANGO EAST REGION**

02 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2018

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THE NATIONAL COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMPRISED OF MEMBERS AS LISTED BELOW:

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Hon. Werner Kalipi	–	Member

Secretariat

Ms Helena Kashikola	–	Parliamentary Clerk
Mr Immanuel Kooper	–	Chief Information Officer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The National Council Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development expresses its sincerely gratitude to the leaders of all regions visited during the oversight. The Committee further acknowledges and appreciates all the issues raised during deliberation.

The attendance of meetings by community members enabled the community to gather valuable information from the affected beneficiaries. Efforts by Contractors for taking the Committee on site and providing the much needed and necessary information is valued. All contributions during meetings and deliberations by all stakeholders contributed immensely to the valuable information collected and captured and now contained in this report.

TERMS OF REFERENCES FOR THE OVERSIGHT VISIT ON THE ERADICATION OF BUCKET SYSTEM / PROVISION OF SANITATION FACILITIES IN THE //KARAS, OTJOZONDJUPA AND KUNENE REGIONS;

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS MADE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE OTJOZONDJUPA AND KUNENE REGIONS;

ASSESSMENT PROGRESS MADE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF NECKARTAL DAM; AND

ENGAGING MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT ASSET REGISTRY IN OTJOZONDJUPA, KUNENE AND KAVANGO EAST REGIONS.

1. Committee visit to Kosis and Grunau Settlements, //Karas Region, to asses:

- 1.1 Progress made with regards to eradication of the bucket system and the provision of sanitation facilities;
- 1.2 Delay in provision of toilets to 48 households in Kosis and 118 in Grunau;
- 1.3 Current sanitation practices;
- 1.4 Measures in place to address eradication of the bucket system.

2. Committee visit to Kalkfeld Settlement, Otjiwarongo Constituency (Otjozondjupa Region) Construction of Service Infrastructure NPC Code: 18914 assess if:

- 1.1 The construction of phase 1 and 2 of sewerage reticulation is completed,
- 1.2 Construction of sewerage reticulation and rehabilitation of oxidation pond is completed and,
- 1.3 Beneficiaries are connected to the sewerage line and if the safety of the sewerage disposal is considered, to avoid diseases.

3. Construction of Neckartal Dam in the //Karas Region NPC Code: 18115 to assess if:

- 3.1 The construction of abstraction work; left and right bank, bulk excavation work, dam wall foundation, concrete batching plant and aggregate production plant as well as the completion of the 2 100m pipeline is completed (2016/2017); and
- 3.2 The construction of the dam wall, weir and sediment trap, mechanical and electrical works has commenced.

4. Okangwati Settlement, Epupa Constituency Construction of Services Infrastructure, NPC Code: 20083; and

Otuzemba, Opuwo Urban Constituency Construction of Services Infrastructure, NPC Code: 8031 in Kunene Region to assess whether:

- 4.1 The construction of water, sewer services and roads infrastructure are completed;
- 4.2 Residents of Okangwati settlement still fetches water from wells and hand pumps for human consumption;
- 4.3 There are residents using the bush as ablution facilities in Okangwati;
- 4.4 The 500 houses at Okangwati that were not connected to the water and sewer line are now connected;
- 4.5 The design of the servicing of land and documentation was done for Otuzemba;
- 4.6 The construction of water and sewerage reticulation, roads and electricity network was done in 2016/2017 financial year at Otuzemba.

5. Ministry of Works and Transport (Otjozondjupa, Kunene and Kavango East Regions)

- 5.1 To engage the Ministry of Works and Transport on management of Government Asset Registry;

5.2 To make sure that all immovable Government properties are registered and information is up-to-date;

5.3 To find out about the current status of Government infrastructure.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development undertook an oversight visit on the provision of sanitation facilities, assess progress made on construction of service infrastructure, assess progress on the construction of Neckartal dam and engage Ministry of Works and Transport on the management of asset registry in //Kharas, Otjozondjupa, Kunene and Kavango East Region from the 02-14 September 2018.
- 1.2 This report contains information obtained during meetings and discussions the National Council Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development had with various stakeholders such as regional leaders, community members, community members and regional leadership. The construction of Service Infrastructure in Otjozondjupa and Kunene Region as well as the construction of Neckartal dam in the //Kharas Region were budgeted for in the MTEF for 2016/17-2019/20 financial year.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Standing Committee's visit to the various regions was to carry out oversight functions on behalf of the National Council, as mandated by the Constitution, Article 74(2) and more especially, as spelled out in the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Council, in particular Rule 157.
- 1.4 The oversight visit outcome will aid the Committee members as well as the National Council Members to keep track with the developments on the ground in relation to the implementation of projects budgeted for in the MTEF 2016/2017
- 1.5 In addition, the Harambee Prosperity Plan as adopted by the Namibian Government expects all stakeholders to implement and execute all government plans, programmes and projects as planned each year.

2. Methodology

Information gathered and presented in this report were sourced from meetings held with stakeholders in all settlements, Regional Council, projects and Ministries visited and consulted during the oversight visit.

3. Courtesy meetings with regional leaders of the various regions

The Committee met with regional leaders of the respective regions visited. Some pertinent issues raised during the meetings are the compilation of the households that needed toilets in Kosis and Grunau, as well as a request that was forwarded to the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development with no response to date. The regional leaders mentioned the exorbitant prices quoted and charged for the supply and construction of toilets. Another highlight was the construction of Neckartal dam which is near completion. The issue of the gravel road from Opuwo to Okanguati was raised as many road users are at risk of losing lives especially during the rainy season. Migration of people from rural to the urban areas highlighted as a challenge mostly in the Kavango region. The absence of an asset registry at OMAs was a burning concern for all regions the Committee visited.

4. Committee visit to Grunau Settlement

- 4.1 The Committee was welcomed by the Regional leadership who confirmed and informed the Committee on the existence of the bucket system in the settlement. The Committee was further informed that at present no sewage system existed. Although efforts were made to eradicate the bucket system since 2015, budget constraints attributed or hindered the process of eradicating bucket system.
- 4.2 During deliberations, the Constituency Councillor communicated plans underway to expand the settlement office with funds received from Tax returns and earmarked for community development.
- 4.3 A total of 118 houses in the Settlement don't have toilets because of the budget constraints. At present a number of 10 pit latrines were recorded of which one pit latrine is used or shared by more than three households.
- 4.4 Upon inspection by the Committee, the pit latrines were found to be in a dilapidated state and unsafe and unfit for human use.
- 4.5 As part of measures currently in place, the Committee was informed that there are plans underway to acquire land from nearest farms in order to expand the Settlement to areas with sewage reticulation system.
- 4.6 The Committee was further informed that Namwater is planning to put up a water plant to enable the Settlement to be connected to water and sewage.

5. Committee visit to Kosis Settlement

- 5.1 The Committee was welcomed by the Constituency Councillor, who indicated that the Kosis Settlement was not legally proclaimed. He further informed the Committee that the inhabitants of the settlement are still using the bucket system. Although attempts were made to inform the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development of the sanitation concerns, to date no response was communicated to the settlement leadership.
- 5.2 At present, there are 52 bucket toilets and 8 self-made pit latrines at the settlement and a private owned company was contracted to empty the buckets weekly.
- 5.3 The settlement had a total of 32 flushing toilets connected to the sewage system inherited from the previous administration.
- 5.4 The Committee was informed that the residents who do not own bucket toilets, pit latrines or flushing toilets, uses the bush when the nature calls.
- 5.5 On inspection, the Committee observed that the bucket toilets were very close to the houses and thus posed an immense health risk to the users.
- 5.6 At the moment the Settlement to not have plan in place on how to eradicate the bucket system.

6. Committee visit to Kalkfeld Settlement

- 6.1 The Committee was welcomed by the Constituency councillor, who highlighted few accomplishments in their efforts to eradicate the bucket system, particularly in Kalkfeld. The councillor informed the Committee that they eradicated the entire bucket system in Kalkfeld, however, not all residents at the Settlement have been provided with flushing toilets.
- 6.2 The settlement has approximately 2500 inhabitants. Currently only 91 flushing toilets were constructed, of which priority will be given to pensioners and disabled residents.
- 6.3 The Committee was informed that Styrotex were manufacturing flushing toilets and pit latrines at a total cost of N\$ 9 750.00 each.
- 6.4 At present Styrotex was working on a consignment for Kalkfeld. The Committee was taken on a tour to the manufacturer to observe the toilet manufacturing process.

- 6.5 The Committee was informed that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development availed funds to the settlement for the construction of toilets and provision of service infrastructure.
- 6.6 The Committee was informed that the settlement office is planning to upgrade the current pumping machine, furthermore fencing off the oxidation pond and cementing it to avoid underground water contamination.

The Committee findings on the planned activities as per the MTEF:

- The construction of phase 1 and 2 of sewage reticulation just commenced;
- The construction of the sewage reticulation and rehabilitation of oxidation pond has not started yet.
- The beneficiaries are not connected to the sewage line and they are still exposed to health hazards because the current oxidation pond is in the open, animals around the settlement drink from the pond and children play in the contaminated water.

7. Committee visit to Okanguati Settlement

- 7.1 The Constituency councillor welcomed the Committee and pointed out critical issues faced by inhabitants of Okanguati. The informed the committee that only one well had suitable water for human consumption. Water from all other boreholes was too salty and not fit for consumption.
- 7.2 A total number of 23 boreholes were drilled at Ohamaremba, 15 km away from Okanguati, however only 8 boreholes had sufficient water fit for human consumption. Budget and tender allocation is awaited to enable water supply to the settlement.
- 7.3 The councillor informed the Committee that Okanguati settlement was underdeveloped, hence, no employment opportunity.

8. Committee observations at Okanguati and findings as per MTEF planned activities:

- 8.1 The construction of water has started but not completed, sewer services and road infrastructure not yet commenced;
- 8.2 The residents fetch water from wells for human consumption;
- 8.3 Residents use the bush as ablution facilities;
- 8.4 A total of 200 houses are not connected to the water system and 300 houses not connected to the sewer system;

Additional observation by the committee:

- Hostel learners are badly affected, as they have to stop classes in order to fetch water from nearby wells;
- Even though 150 plots were serviced in 2012, currently there is no running water in the system;
- Build Together and Government houses are connected to the oxidation pond, however occupants of these houses use pit latrines due to a lack of water;
- Over 500 plots are available but not yet surveyed; and
- Some community members were found doing laundry at the oxidation pond, animals drinking from the pond while others were bathing in the sewage water.

9. Committee visit to Otuzemba

- 9.1 The Committee visited Opuwo Town Council to assess the construction of service infrastructure at Otuzemba since it falls under their jurisdiction. In the absence of accounting officers, the Committee requested the Town Council to compile a comprehensive report about progress on the construction of service infrastructure at Otuzemba and forward to Committee Secretariat.

10. Committee Visit to Neckartal Dam

- 10.1 The Committee was welcomed by an on-site Consultant who gave a brief background of the history of the dam. He informed the Committee that the dam was completed with only minor touches to be finalised.

10.2 The Committee findings on the planned activities as per the MTEF:

- 10.2.1 The construction of the abstraction work is done but there is electrical component to be done;
 - 10.2.2 Left and the right bank are completed;
 - 10.2.3 Bulk excavation work is completed;
 - 10.2.4 Dam wall foundation is completed;
 - 10.2.5 Concrete batching plant and aggregate production plant and completion of the 2100m pipeline is completed;
 - 10.2.6 Construction of the dam wall is done but there are minor works still to be done;
 - 10.2.7 Weir and sediment trap is completed;
 - 10.2.8 Mechanical and electrical works has started but not completed;
- 10.3 The Committee raised concerns about the escalated amount from the initial budget amount of N\$ 2.8 billion to N\$4.1 billion. The contractors and consultant informed the Committee that the increase was due to variation cost that was not provided for in the contract as well as default caused by natural phenomenon such as rain

11. Committee visit to Ministry of Works and Transport, Otjiwarongo – Asset Registry

- 11.1 The Committee was welcomed by the Chief Work Inspector, who informed the Committee that the region was divided into two clusters namely Otjiwarongo District and Grootfontein District. Each district is responsible for registering assets in towns and settlements in their respective vicinities.
- 11.2 The Inspector provided a register of government assets for Otjiwarongo, Otavi and Kalkfeld settlement and indicated that the register was not up-to-date and many assets in the respective towns and settlement were not registered.
- 11.3 The Inspector informed the Committee about concerns with some government houses at Okamatapati, Okakarara Constituency that could not be registered because of disputes. He further indicated that it was not clear whether the houses belonged to Government or to private individuals. He further informed the Committee that newly built infrastructure are difficult to register if the information is not handed to the regional offices after to completion of the buildings. Information are mostly provided to respective head offices of the various OMA's and not with the sub offices for recording.

- 11.4 The Committee wanted to get clarity on the maintenance of government structures. In response to the maintenance query, the Inspector from the Ministry of Works and Transport indicated that the maintenance budget is allocated to each Ministry, further indicating that they are only called in to do maintenance work when they are requested by a particular OMA's.
- 11.5 The Inspector informed the Committee that many residential houses are not well-maintained by the occupants.

12. Committee visit to the Ministry of Works and Transport (Opuwo) – Asset Registry

- 12.1 The Committee met an official from the Ministry of Works and Transport who welcomed and informed the Committee that they had no asset register in place. He further pointed out that there were only 38 government houses inherited from the colonial administration that are registered under Opuwo town.
- 12.2 The government infrastructures build since independence are not registered, because no one was assign to do registry. The Ministerial official informed the Committee that the function of asset registry was not decentralised yet.
- 12.3 The Ministerial official pointed out to the Committee that some government assets are registered by the Regional Council and Town Council. He further informed the Committee that fixed asset officials would come from head office to conduct inspection, thereafter, not share their findings or the report with regional offices.

13. Committee visit to the Ministry of Works and Transport (Kavango East) – Asset registry

- 13.1 The Committee was welcomed by a Chief Work Inspector who informed the Committee that even though they had an asset register in place it was not updated. He also indicated that the function of asset registry is not decentralised. The Inspector pointed out that they have some government infrastructures that are being disputed, further mentioning that illegal tenants are too difficult to control.
- 13.2 The Inspector informed the Committee that registering of Government property stopped in the year 2011 after a verbal directive from head office, however the current Director has issued a directive for assets to be registered again. The process will commence after all bureaucracies has been sorted.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 Inhabitants of Grunau and Kosis Settlements are still using the bucket system and no budgetary provision has been earmarked for the provision of sanitation facilities in the two Settlements. The pit latrines that are being used currently are in a dilapidated state and unsafe and unfit for human use.
- 14.2 Even though the entire bucket system in Kalkfeld was eradicated, not all residents at the settlement were provided with flushing toilets.
- 14.3 The Neckertal dam was completed, with few minor touches to be finalised, however the escalated amount from the initial budget amount of N\$ 2.8 billion to N\$4.1 billion is a big concern.
- 14.4 Okanguati is faced with a serious water crisis. A total number of 23 boreholes were drilled around Okanguati, however only 8 boreholes had sufficient water fit for human consumption.
- 14.5 Government Asset registry at all visited regions were not in place. Responsibilities are not clearly assigned and understood by the Ministry of Works and Transport regional officials.

15. Recommendations

- 15.1 The Committee recommends that VAT return money be utilised for social upliftment or developmental projects and encourage the //Kharas Regional Council to revisit the decision to expand the Grunau settlement office.
- 15.2 Styrotex is manufacturing affordable flushing toilets, the committee recommends that the //Kharas Regional Council Leadership visit Styrotex in Otjiwarongo to learn about their products for possible procurement and installation in the Region.
- 15.3 The Committee recommends that Otjozondupa Regional Council and the settlement office to prioritise fencing off the oxidation pond in Kalkfeld to avoid spreading of diseases and possible loss of lives.
- 15.4 The Committee recommends that the Ministry Works and Transport take up the issue of asset registry as a matter of priority so as to achieve uniformity with regard to the registration of assets for both central and regional set up.

- 15.5 The water crisis in Okanguati is of serious concern, thus the committee recommends that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and Kunene Regional Council to address the water crisis as a matter of urgency.
- 15.6 In order for the 8 drilled boreholes to provide safe drinking water to the community, the committee recommend that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development fast-track the process of allocating funds to Kunene Regional Council to enable the council to channel water from Ohamaremba to Okanguati settlement.
- 15.7 The committee recommends that sewage pond at Okanguati settlement be fenced off to avoid residents from utilising the sewage water which is a disastrous health hazard.

16. Adoption of Report

This Report was adopted by the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development on 03 December 2018 in Red Room, National Council Building.

(Signed by)

Hon. Phillipus W. Katamelo
Chairperson

03 December 2018